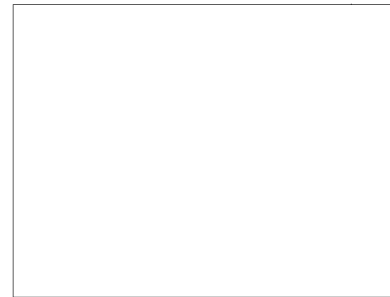
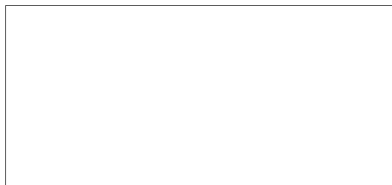




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National Intelligence Daily

***Friday
18 June 1982***

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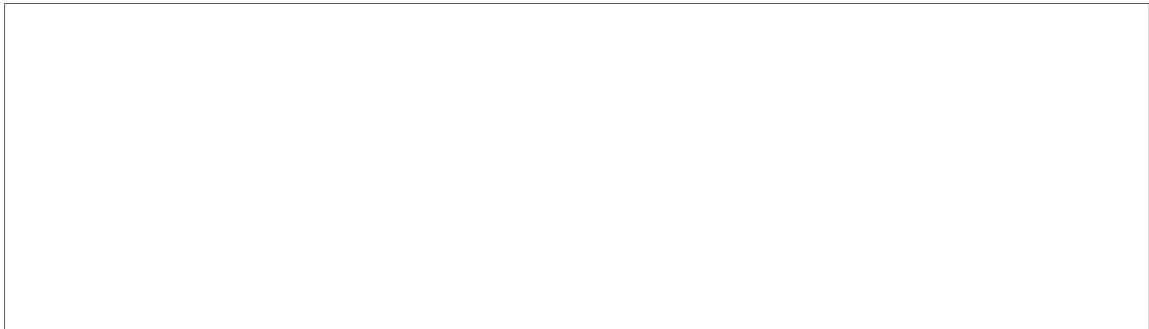
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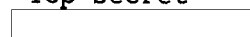
6 USSR-Afghanistan: *Soviet Military Gains*. 9



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USSR-AFGHANISTAN: Soviet Military Gains

The Soviets have achieved some success in their fifth and largest offensive into the strategic Panjsher Valley.

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The insurgent commander claims that morale remains high and that his forces, joined by insurgent bands from northern and central Afghanistan, have inflicted substantial casualties on Soviet and Afghan units. He admits, however, that the insurgents suffered heavy losses and is appealing for resupply.

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Comment: The Soviets' success probably will be fleeting because the competence and reliability of Afghan Government troops who will try to hold the valley generally are low. The Soviets appear unwilling to commit their own troops to occupy the valley permanently.

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Even a temporary success against the local insurgents--among the best trained and equipped in Afghanistan--will encourage the Soviets to continue their current strategy of major combined operations. The Soviets are likely to conduct several more large-scale operations during the summer, probably in the northern provinces adjacent to the Soviet border and near major infiltration routes from Pakistan and Iran.

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